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Lukewarm response to Unlock 1.0

Mysuru, June 8 (RK&BCT)- Places of worship including Temples, Churches, Mosques, Gurudwaras and Jain Temples, eating joints like hotels and restaurants and the shopping malls opened in Mysuru this morning throwing life back to pre-lockdown days. Cinema halls, multiplexes, swimming pools, bars and gyms, schools and colleges among other things, will remain shut until further notice.

All places that have been permitted to open today are following rigorous protocols to prevent the spread of the virus. They have deployed additional safety precautions and are in the process of giving wide publicity to their customers. However, the response of people to Unlock 1.0 was lukewarm as not much crowd was witnessed at these places this morning. Stakeholders say that people are still cautious and it might take a couple of days for normalcy to return.

Hospitality services

Hospitality services too resumed operations, a breather for hotels, resorts and holiday homes. While certain star category hotels in Mysuru did not open today, other hotels and restaurants were open but with precautions. Some hotels like the Brigade Group's Grand Mercure saw people checking-in to rooms. It is to be seen how quickly the hospitality sector will be able to address the COVID-19 concerns and attract visitors and tourists.

Popular eating joints across the city too opened for business but with less crowd. There were only a few breakfast eaters at popular hotels where seating arrangements were made in such a way that social distancing is maintained. Some hotels have published posters that contain list of dos and don'ts for customers. Steady crowds were expected in the evenings after the people return from work, said hoteliers.

Places of worship

Among the places of worship that opened today were the Sri Chamundeshwari Temple atop the Chamundi Hill, Tripurasundari Jwalamukhi Temple at Uthanahalli, Sri Lakshmivenkataramanaswamy Temple at Vontikoppal, all temples inside Mysore Palace premises including the Trinayaneshwara Swamy Temple, Panchamukhi Anjaneyaswamy Temple on Irwin Road, 101 Ganapathy Temple at Agrahara, Amrutheshwara Temple on Dewans Road, Eshwara Temple on Ramanuja Road and Chandramouleshwara Temple at Mathru Mandali Circle were open.

Checking of body temperature at the entrance with infrared thermometers, use of hand sanitisers, wearing of masks by devotees and staff and also maintaining social distancing were common sights everywhere.

(See UNLOCK on page 6)

City Zoo tides over lockdown blues, open tomorrow

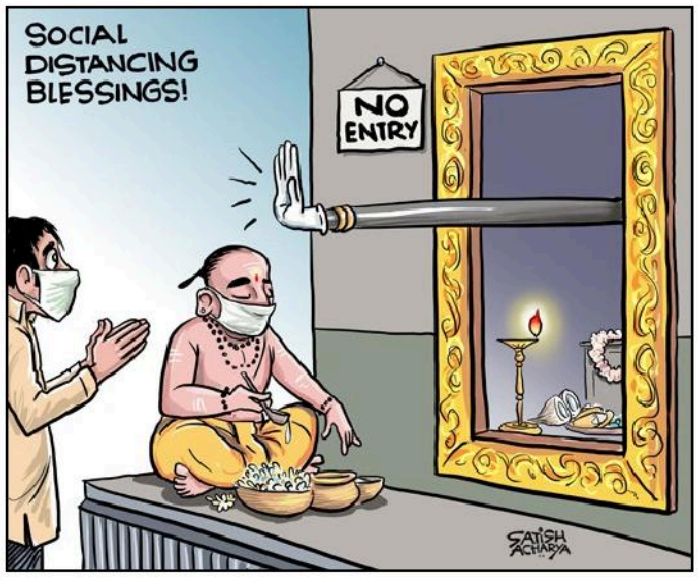
Three animals adopted in the name of triumvirate of Kannada cinema — Dr. Rajkumar, Vishnuvardhan and Ambarish

MP Sumalatha Ambarish seen cutting the tape to mark the reopening of the Zoo this morning as others look on.

Mysuru, June 8 (MTY& BNR)- One of the major tourist hotspots, Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens (Mysuru Zoo) opened this morning after lockdown. The Zoo and Karanji Lake Nature Park will be open tomorrow (Tuesday). Mysuru District Minister S.T. Somashekar adopted three animals in the name of triumvirate of Kannada cinema — Dr. Rajkumar, Dr. Vishnuvardhan and M.H. Ambarish.

(See ZOO on page 6)

STAR PUNCH By Satish Acharya



Environment Day events galore in city

RTO (WEST): Regional Transport Officer Yomakeshavappa of RTO (West) planting a sapling at RTO (West) premises in city on Friday as part of World Environment Day celebrations as Superintendent M. Kumar, B.N. Manjunath, Srinivas Mithra and Vajregowda look on.

MALABAR GOLD & DIAMONDS: World Environment Day was celebrated at all Malabar Gold & Diamonds showrooms, keeping in line with the UN theme for the year 'Time for Nature.' They distributed saplings to all customers across Karnataka who visited their stores on June 5. Every year, Malabar Gold & Diamonds celebrates the Day by distributing saplings and also planting them across various locations in the city.

SPANDANA: Retired Joint Director of Animal Husbandry Department Dr. Krishnamurthy inaugurated the World Environment Day celebrations organised by 'Spandana' at a Park on Aniketana Road in Kuvempunagar. 'Spandana' Managing Director M. Jayashankar, Shivakumar, Prabhu, Gaviyappa, Prithvi Gaviyappa, Ramesh, Prakash and Chandregowda were present.

CAUVERY GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS & CAUVERY HEART & MULTI-SPECIALITY HOSPITAL: The World Environment Day 2020 with the theme 'Time for Nature' was inaugurated by Dr. G.R. Chandrashekar, Chairman of Cauvery Group of Institutions, along with College Principal, Chief Administrative Officer and staff members. Saplings were planted at the College Campus. Also, saplings were planted on either side of the Bannur Road from Teresian College Circle to Sri Deve Gowda Circle by Dr. Sarala Chandrashekar, Managing Director, Cauvery Heart & Multi-Speciality Hospital, Dr. Uzma Bepari, Consultant Gynaecologist, Dr. Harjith, Consultant Paediatrician and other staff members.

ATME COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING: Dr. L. Basavaraj Principal, ATME College of Engineering (ATMECE), inaugurated the World Environment Day celebrations at the College premises by planting saplings. He appealed people not to burn plastic and other toxic items which in turn would pollute air and advised to grow more plants and trees. Various types of saplings were planted in the campus by Heads and staff members of various Departments. On the occasion, low cost sanitiser, handwash and phenyl prepared by the Department of Civil Engineering, was distributed for usage in College. The team was headed by Dr. K.J. Suresh, Associate Professor, ATMECE, along with Muttegowda, Pradeep Kumar and Shivakumar.

GLOBAL EDUCATION TRUST (GET) - DAKSHA PU COLLEGE, MYSURU: As part of its tradition of continuous greening of its campus, Chairman Jayachandra Raju and his team of Daksha PU College staff planted saplings in GETS PLACE, the green and clean campus located in Hootagalli Industrial Area, Mysuru.

YHAI MYSURU UNIT: Saplings were planted at Gokulam 2nd Stage by Youth Hostels Association of India (YHAI) Mysuru Unit Chairman H. Ravikumar and Committee Members Jayaramu, Varun Karthik, Siddegowda, Arun Kumar and Sathish Chandra to mark World Environment Day celebrations.

SBM COLONY: Residents of SBM Colony celebrated World Environment Day by planting saplings of fruit- bearing trees at SBM Park in Srirampura and took pledge to develop more greenery, plan for more rain-harvesting projects in houses wherever space is available and keep the surroundings clean. Some of the residents appealed to the MCC to take over the park and provide water facility and plant more medicinal plants, as promised by the MLA sometime back. K.V. Ramanath, Secretary, Mysore Bank Colony Residents' Cultural and Welfare Association, SBM Colony, Sriramapura II Stage, was present.

VOICE OF THE READER

An appeal to MCC

Maintain street lights, conserve electricity

Sir,

I wish to appeal to the authorities of Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) and the Corporators to adopt latest technology to conserve electricity wasted daily through thousands of street lights not being switched off well in time. It is strange to observe several street lights burning well after sunrise. In these summer days, sunrise is quite early and a good 1.5 hrs of electricity could be saved if all the street lights could be switched off through a remote control-enabled switching system. At present this activity is manual-dependent and may have been contracted to a few agencies.

The persons to manually do this work are not always chosen from those who reside in nearby areas. I happened to meet such a person who gave an alibi of having to come from a far off city centre to as far as Ramakrishnanagar or Vivekanandanagar and Aravindanagar. What a waste of precious fuel and time besides not doing the work satisfactorily. During rainy season, the person may not be able to turn up at all for the whole day.

In some areas, many senior citizens have taken upon as social responsibility to switch off the lights during their early morning walk. But here lies the danger to them in so doing. At many such switch locations, the boxes are heavily corroded, no doors and no latches. The wires are left bare and hanging out. The connection is made through bare wire engaging each other loosely and generate a spark while attempting to disengage the same. I have seen many elders doing it with bare hands. It can result in shock or burn to them.

One can see such boxes "decorating" all the streets. Children are likely to come in live contact and in the rainy season leakage due to earthing may lead to animals come in contact while grazing near the poles.

Hope the authorities concerned will take note of this and do the needful.

— Prof. B.S. Shankara (retd.)
Mysuru
6.6.2020

Distribution of ration kits to Anganwadi workers

Mysuru, June 8 (RKB&BNR)- District Minister S.T. Somashekar launched the programme of distributing grocery kits to 2,860 Anganwadi workers of the district at Kalamandira in city recently by symbolically distributing kits to 125 Anganwadi workers.

Chamraja MLA L. Nagendra, in his presidential address, said that distributing essentials to Anganwadi workers shows the concern of the District Minister.

Anganwadi worker Bhagya expressed her gratitude for recognising their services that included collecting information from every house and distributing essentials.

DC Abhiram G. Sankar, MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde, Zilla Panchayat (ZP) CEO Prashanth Kumar Misra, Hasiru Mysuru President H.V. Rajeev, Mysuru Rural BJP President S.D. Mahendra and others were present on the occasion.

General health screening & menstrual hygiene camp at Balamandira

Mysuru, June 8- A general health screening and menstrual health awareness camp was conducted at Government Girls Balamandira in city on June 4.

Inner Wheel Club of Mysore Central in association with Mysore Adolescent Health Academy (MAHA) and Asha Kirana Hospital conducted the camp. In all, 60 children underwent general health check-up and menstrual hygiene screening.

Kavita Vinod & Lakshmi Arun, Incoming President & Secretary – Inner Wheel Club of Mysore Central (respectively), Dr. S.N. Mothi, K.S. Gururaja, Dr. Srirama, Dr. Sagarika, Chairman, Trustee, Medical Officers, Asha Kirana Hospital (respectively), Dr. S. Diwakar, District Child Protection Officer, Leelavathi, Retd. Superintendent, Yashoda, Professional Officer, Anusuya, House Mother, Balamandira, were present during the inaugural ceremony.

In his speech, Dr. Mothi has assured to provide free monthly primary health care services to the kids of Balamandira.

Inner Wheel Central donated 60 pairs of slippers for the children sponsored by Uttam Rubbers Pvt. Ltd. Dr. Sagarika distributed 50 sanitary pad kits (each kit containing 7 pads with a savlon soap) and also educated the teens about the proper disposal of sanitary pads on behalf of Reachout India's menstrual health drive.

Dr. S.N. Mothi and K.S. Gururaja donated Multivitamin Syrups, Vitamin A and Deworming tablets to all the children.

Financial aid provided to 30 supporting artistes of Kannada Film Industry

Mysuru, June 8 (SPN&BNR)- District Minister S.T. Somashekar distributed financial aid to comedians and supporting artistes of Kannada film industry, who are facing severe hardship due to lockdown.

At a simple programme organised at the Government Guest House in Nazarbad here recently to distribute the financial aid, the District Minister said that the State Government will come in aid of the needy artistes and they need not fear.

Comedian Dingri Nagaraj, who spoke, said hundreds of artistes are facing severe problems due to lockdown but people of Karnataka have helped them by providing grocery kits, financial aid and essential medicines. It has made us happy that now District Minister S.T. Somashekar, Producer Sandesh Nagaraj, Corporator M.V. Ramprasad, leader H.V. Rajeev and industrialist Amaranathraje Urs have come in support of these artistes, he added.

A total of 30 artistes including comedian Dingri Nagaraj, actress Rekha Das, Vaidyanath Biradar, Shankar Ashwath and Mysuru Ramananda were handed over a financial aid of Rs. 8,000 each. City BJP President T.S. Srivatsa, Rural President S.D. Mahendra, Corporator M.V. Ramprasad, MyMUL Director Ashok, BJP leaders C. Sandeep, Somesh, Dharmendra, Advait, Shivu, Ramachandra, Prabhakar were present.

Appointed as KSIIDC Director

Mysuru, June 8- City Advocate and Tax Consultant S. Mahadevaswamy has been appointed as a Non-Executive Director of the State-owned Karnataka State Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KSIIDC) at Bengaluru.

'Swachhata' campaign to be launched in 20 Gram Panchayats of Mysuru Taluk

Mysuru, June 8 (SPN&DM)- Taking cue from Mysuru City Corporation (MCC), the Mysuru Taluk administration has planned to launch 'Swachhata' cleanliness campaign in 20 Gram Panchayats (GPs) of the taluk.

Mysuru Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Krishnakumar told 'Star of Mysore' that the cleanliness campaign will be launched under the caption 'Garbage-free Village' in 20 of the 37 GPs of the Taluk.

Pointing out that the campaign will be taken up under 'Swachh Bharat Mission,' he said that the initiative is being taken up at a cost of Rs.5.5 crore, out of which Rs.4.5 crore has been released.

Explaining the details of the plan, Krishnakumar said the initiative involves setting up of a waste disposal plant, appointment of Pourakarmikas, distribution of waste dumping bins to every household and digging of sanitation pits, among other works. Noting that the necessary land for construction of waste disposal plants has already been identified in several GPs including Yelwal, Bogadi, Devalapura, Varuna, Jayapura, Gunghral Chhatra, Dhanagalli, Chamundi Hill, Doora, Harohalli, Kadakola, Marballi and Koorgalli, he said that the Government has released Rs.10 lakh out of the Rs.20 lakh grant for each of these GPs for constructing the plant.

Highlighting the means for mopping up resources, Krishnakumar said that the TP has planned to impose an annual tax of Rs.250 on every household in order to meet the expenses of the cleanliness campaign. But this is subject to the approval of people's representatives and higher authorities, he said and added that the TP has proposed to purchase an Auto- Tipper for every GP and three sucking machines in total. He attributed the launch of the campaign to the efforts of MP Pratap Simha, MLAs G.T. Devegowda and Dr.Yathindra Siddharamaiah, ZP CEO Prashanth Kumar Mishra and other top officials.

He further said that the TP has achieved cent percent success in revenue earnings by collecting over Rs.33 crore annual taxes (water, property taxes etc.) from all the 37 GPs as on March 31, 2020.

Meanwhile, Chamundeshwari MLA G.T. Devegowda said that several meetings have been held to discuss setting up and maintenance of waste disposal plants in all GPs coming under his Constituency. The first phase of 'Garbage-free Village' initiative will be launched soon, he added.

Nagarahole sees zero fire incidents in 2019-20

A watcher atop a tree keeps vigil on forest fires in Nagarahole. Picture right shows Fire lines that were created in Nagarahole.

Hanagodu / Mysuru, June 8 (Mahesh, KS&BCT)- The efforts of Forest Department officials and staff in taking measures to prevent forest fires at Nagarahole Tiger Reserve has paid with rich dividends. As there were no forest fire incidents, the National Park has earned a 'zero fire spot' tag.

Since 10 years, there have been incidents of forest fires at various zones in the Reserve, destroying large swathes of land along with wild animals, flora and fauna. This year, however, using modern equipment and technology, the Forest Department employees have been working relentlessly and were successful in preventing forest fires.

Learning lessons from the large fire that had engulfed parts of Bandipur last year and from the fire incidents at Nagarahole every year, the officials and staff also sought co-operation from tribals and local villagers on the fringes of forests to control forest fires. As 200.47 sq. km buffer zone area now comes under Nagarahole Reserve Forest, the forest is now 843.47 sq. km and it had become a challenge to the staff to prevent forest fires in the additional areas.

Fire lines play a major role in the prevention of spreading of forest fire and hence creating of fire lines was undertaken since December 2019. While some fire lines are 10 metres wide at some places, 20 metres wide fire lines have been created at some other places.

To create 2,677 km fire line, more than 400 tribals, who are experienced in fire extinguishing, were appointed as Watchers and the Forest officials provided them good food and handsome money for their work. Also, Forest officials and staff had made jungles their home leaving behind their families from January till March. All these resulted in zero forest fire incidents.

Year-wise details

In 2018-19, 16 hectares of forest land was destroyed, 15 hectares in 2017-18, 106 hectares in 2016-17, 48 hectares in 2015-16 and 6.08 hectare in 2014-15 were reduced to ashes.

Preventive steps

Preventing forest fires is one of the major tasks for the Forest officials and staff for which various preventive steps and use of various technologies is required. The Department created awareness on the dangers of forest fires and importance of forests through street plays, posters and rallies in villages along the fringes, created fire lines in all eight zones and necessary practical training was given to the staff and others on preventing fire.

Officials took steps to retain maximum water in lakes and ponds, appointed more teams with tribals as Fire Watchers, deployed more staff at forest zones in borders, using Watch Towers and undertook 24-hour patrolling. Quick Response Vehicles were used at all zones, used water sprayers, water tank facility and modern fire-dousing equipment were used and as a back-up, fire-extinguishing vehicles were stationed at many zones. Drone cameras and video cameras were used to keep overarching vigil. The Department was also ready to use a chopper if necessary to prevent and control fires.

Mahesh Kumar, Director, Project Tiger, Nagarahole Tiger Reserve said, "We feel proud to say that because of the awareness created about the importance of forests among villagers in forest borders, co-operation from all including officials and staff, there was not a single fire incident at Nagarahole."

Wild jungle safaris resume

Mysuru, June 8 (MTY&BCT)- Safaris at Bandipur Tiger Reserve and Nagarahole National Park have resumed today after a gap of 75 days. While there were no safaris early in the morning due to lack of visitors, officials were seen preparing for noon, afternoon and evening slots.

Before the wildlife enthusiasts were allowed inside the safari jeeps, they were asked to wear masks and their hands were sanitised. Assistant Conservator of Forests Ravi Kumar and Range Forest Officer Naveen Kumar of Gopalaswamy Range supervised the arrangements at Melukamanahalli Gate in Bandipur this morning.

Reports from Bandipur said that for the noon safari, only 11 people had come. Forest Officers inspected the sign boards where detailed guidelines have been printed and displayed.

At Nagarahole Tiger Reserve too, there were no morning safaris. Ledgers and vehicles were being prepared for evening trips.

Apart from jeeps, in Bandipur and Nagarahole, buses too will be used for safaris but social distancing norms will be strictly followed, an official said.

Lockdown wind blows out fires in Bandipur and Nagarahole

Mysuru, June 8 (BCT)- With literally no vehicles or a few vehicles on the roads that pass through the Bandipur and Nagarahole Tiger Reserves, lockdown has brought many benefits to the forests. So much so that this year, not a single major fire has been reported from both the National Parks.

The lockdown measures have resulted in drastic reduction in pollution and wild animals have increasingly been spotted entering urban areas. At Bandipur and Nagarahole, remarkably there were no major infernos even during this peak summer season, usually when the Forest Department officials are on their toes to prevent fires.

Though the Forest Department claims that they were alert and were ready to face any fire incidents even during lockdown, they cannot dismiss the fact that the absence of movement inside the forest was indeed the major reason for 'no forest fire season' this year. Early monsoon too has contributed to this.

Absence of human activity

Forest fires not striking the Reserves also underscores the belief of the Forest Department that the majority of forest fires are man-made. "This could be attributed to the reduced human interference in forest fringes and forest routes following the lockdown. The forest tracts were free from any human activity and this might have resulted in the sharp decline in the number of incidents," admit Forest officials.

Bandipur and Nagarahole used to be in the throes of forest fire in the summer months of March - April and also May. But this time, there was huge drop in fire incidents. In 2019, 12,000 acres of Bandipur forests were burnt due to a major fire.

According to senior forest officials, humans and their vested interests are the main reasons for over 90 per cent of the fire incidents. "Unfortunately, it is not the tribals or villagers who set fire to the forests but the educated lot who travel in vehicles and SUVs throw lit cigarette butts inside the forests and this is the major reason for infernos," a Forest Officer said.

Confidence-building measures

Also, the Forest Department has claimed that there were no incidents of fire at least in Bandipur as officers and staff took people living in villages on the periphery of forests into confidence and chalked out many welfare programmes for them.

After the devastating fire last year, the Department staff learnt a valuable lesson and maintained cordial relationship with them. Investigations into the fire had revealed that the conflict between Forest Department and the tribals resulted in forest fires. Some tribals avenged their ill-treatment by setting fire deep inside jungles. Also, the tribals set fire to forests to prevent wild animals from straying into their habitat.

To cement this discord between Department personnel and locals, officials permitted tribals to run canteens inside Bandipur camp and also conducted programmes like 'Chinnara Darshana' where tribal children were taken for free safaris inside the Tiger Reserve. Also, tribals were involved in many routine tasks like creating fire lines and were sensitised on the importance of conserving nature.

These measures helped boost confidence and gradually the tribals began to trust the Department and also the Department staff treated tribals as friends of forests, said officials.

Like-minded people support
side by side installation of Nalwadi and Sir MV statues at KRS

Mysuru, June 8 (PM&DM)- Maintaining that the people of the State support the Government's plan to install the statues of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar and Sir M.Visvesvaraya (MV) side by side in front of KRS Dam, Mysuru District Brahmin Association President D.T. Prakash has urged the Government not to backtrack from the plan for any reason.

He was speaking at the interaction meet of various like-minded organisations convened by supporters of erstwhile Mysore Maharaja Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar and Chief Engineer and Dewan of Mysore Sir MV at Jaladarshini Guest House here yesterday. The meeting was held in the wake of opposition from some groups for the Government's plan for side by side installation of statues of the two great personalities.

Pointing out that the contribution of Sir MV to Mysuru region was immense, Prakash alleged that some persons were attempting to create unnecessary confusion in the minds of people.

Social activist K. Raghuram Vajpayee asserted that it was Sir MV who went ahead with the construction of KRS Dam despite stiff opposition from the then Madras Province. As such, the installation of Sir MV's statue in front of KRS Dam is a befitting tribute to the great Engineer, he added.

Writer Ravindra Joshi said although there is no doubt that Nalwadi was one of the greatest Maharajas, at the same time it is wrong to oppose the installation of Sir MV's statue. He urged the people to come out in full support of the Government's plan.

District Vokkaliga Association President G. Manju said that the people of Mysuru and Mandya have great respect for Sir MV and the photographs of the great Engineer adorn the walls of houses of many people in the region. Such a towering personality must be respected by everyone irrespective of their caste and creed, he added.

M.K. Premkumar of Mysuru Rakshana Vedike, KMPK Trust President Vikram Iyengar, Brahmin Community leader Rakesh Bhat too spoke at the meeting.

Ex-Mayor reacts

Former Mayor Sandesh Swamy said that he fully approves the Government's plan of side by side installation of the statues of Nalwadi and Sir MV. Asserting that Nalwadi and MV were like two eyes of people, he said it is wrong to create confusions and rift in the society over the installation of the statues.

Recalling that when he was the Mayor earlier, he had performed 'guddali puja' for the installation of Sir MV's statue at Ayurveda College Circle in the heart of the city, he said that it was planned to install Sir MV's statue based on the model of Nalwadi's statue at K.R. Circle. But unfortunately the project had to be shelved as Sir MV's statue was made out of black marble, he noted.

Mysuru Hotel Owners Association President C. Narayanagowda, Corporator Satvik Sandesh, Universty of Mysore Syndicate member E.C. Ningarajegowda, KRS GP member Vijay Kumar, ex-Corporator M.G. Mahesh, leaders Srinivasraje Urs, Devaraj, Kadakola Jagadish, K.M.Nishant and others were present.

Youth slips to death from third floor

Mysuru, June 8 (SBD&KS) – A 23-year-old youth died after slipping from the third floor of the house at Kuvempunagar in the early hours of Sunday.

The deceased is Shashi, a native of Hubballi. He was working as a cook with one Phanikumar, a catering contractor and was staying with two other workers at a room on the third floor in Phanikumar's house.

On Sunday at about 3 am, Shashi got up for a smoke and was trying to sit on the retaining wall when he accidentally fell down. The incident has been captured by the CCTV camera installed at the house.

The incident came to light when Phanikumar, who stays in the ground floor, got up at about 6.15 am and came out of the house. He immediately informed the Police and Kuvempunagar Police, who rushed to the spot, conducted mahazar and registered a case of unnatural death.

Inspector Raju said that Shashi does not have parents and the body was handed over to his sister and brother-in-law after post-mortem.

Overhead Water Tank collapses

Chamarajanagar, June 8 (SS &KS)- A 50,000 litre capacity overhead water tank collapsed behind the Taluk Office at Bhagiratha Nagar in Chinnapura Moole here in the wee hours of yesterday. Luckily, no one was injured in the incident.

The tank collapsed at about 3 am on to the ground and the water stored in the overhead tank flooded the area. Had the overhead tank collapsed on the houses nearby, a major tragedy would have taken place.

This water tank was dilapidated but still water was being stored in it and supplied to the houses in the area. Though the residents had requested the elected representatives, Deputy Commissioner, City Municipal officials and other officials concerned, their pleas had fallen on deaf ears.

Tahsildar Mahesh, City Municipal Commissioner M. Rajanna and others visited the spot.

Obituary

H.V. Dharanandraiah

Mysuru, June 8- H.V. Dharanandraiah (94), a prominent merchant at Santhepet and a resident of V.V. Mohalla, passed away last night at a private hospital in city following brief illness.

A philanthropist, President of Adinath Seva Trust at Srirangapatna and Mahaveer Vidyalaya, he leaves behind five daughters, sons-in-law and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at Chirashanthidhama in Gokulam this afternoon.

K. Venkatesh

K. Venkatesh (79), son of K. Kariyappa, proprietor of Kariyappa & Sons at Shivarampet and a resident of Cheluvamba Agrahara, passed away yesterday night in city. He leaves behind his wife, four sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill this afternoon.

Puttaningamma

Puttaningamma (90), wife of late Kalaiah and a resident of Janatanagar, passed away yesterday in city following a brief illness. She leaves behind three sons, four daughters and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at Janatanagar Burial Grounds today.

K.V. Ramkumar

K.V. Ramkumar (70), a resident of Sunnadakeri, passed away yesterday at his residence in city.

He leaves behind his wife S. Manjula, son Ajay Shastry, a Brahmin youth leader and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill yesterday evening.

R.T.S. Kumar

Hunsur: R.T.S. Kumar, a timber merchant and former President of the Hunsur Club, passed away on Saturday at his residence in Mysuru.

He leaves behind two sons including PCN Cable Proprietor Prakash, daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at Veerashaiva Burial Grounds at Vidyaranyapuram in Mysuru on Saturday evening, according to family sources.

Seetharama

Seetharama (58), a resident of Tondalu village in Hunsur taluk, passed away yesterday following brief illness.

He leaves behind his wife, one son, daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were held at Tondalu village this morning, according to family sources.

Pourakarmika dies
after falling into open drain while cleaning

Mysuru, June 8 (KS)- A Pourakarmika, who was engaged in cleaning an open drain at Maragowdanahalli in Bannur Police limits, died after slipping and falling into the drain on Saturday morning. The deceased is Murugan (38), who has been working as a Pourakarmika at Hanumanaalu Gram Panchayat since nine years.

It is learnt that the drain was clogged due to growth of weeds in it and following rains on Saturday, the drain was filled with rain water and had remained stagnant. When Murugan was clearing the weeds in the drain he slipped and fell into it sustaining head injuries. He breathed his last by the time others came to his rescue.

Meanwhile, Murugan's wife Priya, who has lodged a complaint with the Police, stated that Murugan left for work at about 7 am on Saturday and the news about her husband's death was told by a person known to the family at 12 noon over the phone.

She has further stated that by the time she reached the spot, the Gram Panchayat PDO, with the help of an earth moving machine, had got the stone slabs covering the drain removed and lifted the body. Accusing negligence on the part of the officials concerned and holding them responsible for her husband's death, Priya has urged the authorities concerned to take action against the erring officials.

Various organisations have demanded adequate compensation to Murugan's family and a job to one member of the deceased's family. Bannur Police, who have registered a case, are investigating.

Lukewarm response to Unlock 1.0

(Continued from page 1)

Only 'darshan' was allowed at Temples and there were no distribution of Theertha Prasadam or Dasoha (free food). Even the Srikantenswaraswamy Temple at Nanjangud, Sriranganathaswamy Temple in Srirangapatna and the Nimishamba Temple were open. Though the Govt. has ordered the tourist places to open, the Krishna Raja Sagar Dam remained shut today and according to Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Limited that manages the Dam, it will take at least 15 days for the Dam to open for tourists.

Own prayer mats

Most of the prominent Mosques including Eidgah Masjid, Kutchi Memon Masjid, Ya Allah Masjid, Umar Khayyam Masjid, Al-badr-Masjid, Quba Masjid, Nimrah Masjid, Masjid E Azam, Masjid-E-Noor, Masjid Ul Muslimeen, Kaif Masjid and Aqsa Masjid opened for prayers this morning. A lot of precautions were taken including social distancing and sanitising.

Awareness posters were put up at a few Masjids. At Mosques too, there were limited number of people to offer prayers and as per the instructions issued by the Mosque Management Committees, devotees had to bring their own prayer mats.

Chamaraja Constituency former MLA Vasu and leaders including former Corporator and member of Karnataka Haj Committee Suhail Baig and Sir Khazi of Mysuru Hazrath Moulana Mohammed Usman Shariff distributed thermal screening machines to all Mosques and Temples in Chamaraja Constituency today. Devaraja Block President Sundar Kumar, Akbar, Naushad, Rahmathulla, Tipu, Syed and others were present.

Regarding Churches too, less crowd were witnessed today as it is a working day. Even the famed St. Philomena's Church sported a deserted look despite opening today.

Though hotels and restaurants opened for dining, the number of customers remained scarce in parts of the city. Only takeaways were allowed at hotels and restaurants all these days. Shopping malls including B.M. Habitat Mall, Garuda Mall, Forum City Centre and Mall of Mysore were opened after thorough sanitisation. But only a handful of customers, mainly ladies and youngsters, were seen shopping in the morning.

City Zoo tides over lockdown

(Continued from page 1)

He paid Rs.1.75 lakh for Indian Elephant in the name of Dr. Rajkumar, another Rs. 1.75 lakh for African Elephant in the name of 'Rebel Star' Ambarish and paid Rs. 1 lakh adoption fee for an Asiatic Lion in the name of 'Sahasa Simha' Dr. Vishnuvardhan.

Mandya MP Sumalatha Ambarish re-opened the Zoo by cutting the tape in the presence of District Minister Somashekar, MLAs G.T. Devegowda, S.A. Ramdas, L. Nagendra and B. Harshavardhan, Mayor Tasneem, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abhiram G. Sankar, Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK) Member-Secretary B.P. Ravi, Zoo Executive Director Ajit M. Kulkarni, Zilla Panchayat (ZP) CEO Prashanth Kumar Mishra, Mysuru Assistant Commissioner Dr. N.C. Venkataraju, actor-producer Rockline Venkatesh, area Corporator Chayadevi and Association of Kannada Kootas of America (AKKA) former President Shivamurthy Kilara.

On the occasion, Rs. 40 lakh, including Rs.25 lakh cheque and rest through Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS), was donated to the Zoo by AKKA.

Ajit Kulkarni said that the Mysuru Zoo does not get any State or Central Government grants and works independently. "There was no revenue generation for 2 months. The District Minister had taken note of the same and on learning that the Zoo required Rs. 2 crore for its maintenance, he adopted elephant Chamundi and paid for a day's food expenses of 16 tigers and also by accumulating donations from his well-wishers and friends, so far he has donated Rs.3.23 crore to the Zoo," he said.

Sumalatha reminisces Ambi shooting at Zoo

In her address, Sumalatha Ambarish said that her late husband actor Ambarish had spent more time at the Zoo during his shooting for the movie 'Mrugaalaya' and he had made friendship with not only the staff here but also the animals. Ambarish had shared about his bonding with Chimpanzee named 'Kapil'.

Minister Somashekar told the media that Zoo, Palace and places of worship were opening today by following government guidelines on social distancing, sanitising and compulsory wearing of masks. Steps will be taken to attract tourists, he said. Somashekar also paid for the first 50 tickets on the re-opening day today for his followers and party workers who accompanied him.

Giraffe calves christened as Balaji and Aadyaveer

During the re-opening of Zoo, new-born giraffe calves were also named. The male giraffe calf born on May 30 to Bharat and Mary was named Balaji and the one born to Bharat and Kushi on Mar. 7 was named Aadyaveer, after the son of Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar and Trishikha Kumari Wadiyar. It may be mentioned here that there is a tradition of naming animals at the Mysuru Zoo after royal family members.

New enclosure

New jaguar and tiger enclosure set up at a cost of Rs. 75 lakh was also inaugurated on the occasion. A five-and-a-half-year-old white tiger named Tara and 10-year-old tiger named Rahul were let inside this new enclosure.

Ashada Friday: No decision yet on handling crowds at Hill Temple

Ashada Fridays fall on June 26, July 3, 10 and 17

Mysuru, June 8 (MTY&DM)- While the Chamundeshwari Temple atop the Hill opened for devotees this morning, the Mysuru District Administration has not yet taken any decision on holding Ashada puja as the Ashada month begins from this month-end at the Temple.

Mysuru District Minister S.T. Somashekar, after opening the historic temple for devotees this morning, said that to meet the usual 'Ashada Friday' rush, plans are being worked out on the measures to be taken for controlling the huge rush of devotees on Ashada Fridays.

"I have learnt that 50,000 to 1 lakh devotees visit the Temple on Ashada Fridays and there is still time to work out plans with the first Ashada Friday falling on June 26. We along with the temple authorities are discussing whether to allow devotees to take part or restrict their number or to perform the associated rituals in a simple and traditional manner. We are weighing various options," he said.

The Ashada Fridays fall on June 26 and July 3, 10 and 17 this year.

Temple timings

On the first day of re-opening today, the Hill Temple recorded more than 1,000 devotees, including those from Bengaluru, Mandya and other neighbouring districts till 2 pm. The temple will be open for devotees from 7.30 am to 1 pm and from 3.30 pm to 5 pm on all days.

Earlier, the Minister formally re-opened the temple by offering special prayers to the deity at about 7.15 am. The pujas and rituals were performed by the Temple priests led by Chief Priest Dr. N. Shashishekar Dikshit.

MLAs S.A. Ramdas, L. Nagendra, G.T. Devegowda and B. Harshavardhan, DC Abhiram G. Sankar, SP C.B. Ryshyanth, DCP Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda, Muzrai Tahsildar and Chamundi Hill Temple Executive Officer Yathiraj Sampathkumaran, Assistant Administrative Officer Govindaraju and other officials were present.

Visit renovated Mysuru Rail Museum

Public viewing from 10 am to 6 pm on all days except Tuesdays

Mysuru, June 8- South Western Railway (SWR), Mysuru Division, today re-opened the renovated and revamped Mysuru Rail Museum which was closed for public due to lockdown guidelines from March 25, 2020.

The Museum is open for public viewing from 10 am to 6 pm on all days except Tuesday being a holiday for maintenance. The entry fee for adults is Rs.50; children aged 5-12 years is Rs.20 and for senior citizens Rs.25.

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